

Application No. 10/695,910
Amendment dated December 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated July 26, 2004

Page 6 of 6

Remarks/Arguments

A petition for a two-month extension of time is enclosed under separate cover. Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 14, and 16 - 18 currently stand in the application. Claims 4 and 15 have been cancelled, and the subject matter thereof incorporated into amended claims 1 and 12. Claim 5 has been amended to correct its dependency.

The Examiner indicated that claims 9 - 11 were allowed.

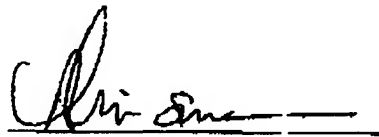
The Examiner rejected claims 1 - 3, 6, 8, 12, 13, and 16 - 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of US Application No. 09/849,742 to Gray (US Publication No. 20020172292). However, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 5, 7, 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 15, respectively. It is, therefore, submitted that amended claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Gray. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 12, Applicant also submits that their dependent claims 2, 3, 5 - 8, 13, 14, and 16 - 18, which are narrower in scope than their respective independent claims, are equally patentable. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) is requested.

No fee is believed due for this submission. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to debit any required fee from Deposit Account No. 501503. The Commissioner is further authorized to debit an additional amount required, and to credit any overpayment to the above noted deposit account.

It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS, LLP
World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa ON K1P 1J9
Canada
Tel. 613-787-3519
akinsman@blgcanada.com

Respectfully submitted,
AKHTER, Mohammad S.



By: L. Anne Kinsman
Registration No. 45,291

IP-OTT-107276321